

THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.



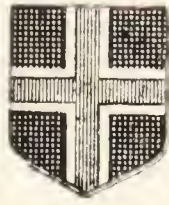
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OTHER RECORDS
FOR 1955.

R. GORDON DRUMMOND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DURHAM
G. BAILES & SONS, PRINTERS, ETC.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

R. GORDON DRUMMOND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Also Medical Officer of Health Durham Rural District, Brandon and Byshottles Urban District, Assistant County Medical Officer County Durham).

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR :

LESLIE OATES, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR :

JOHN BITTLESTONE, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

RODENT OFFICER :

MR. A. T. SMITH.

CLERICAL STAFF :

MRS. J. WILBY, Clerk.

MISS J. M. CLARK.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1955, the third since I assumed office.

The Vital Statistics may be said to be satisfactory and they support the impression that the state of health of the community was good throughout the year. It is particularly pleasing to note that the Infant Mortality Rate has fallen by half from last year's high figure, is lower than that for the Country as a whole and continues the general downward trend discernible over the years. The Still Birth Rate has risen but not to a proportionate extent.

Regarding notifiable infectious disease although the numbers of cases of measles and whooping cough were considerably increased over those of the previous year they more nearly corresponded with the numbers recorded in 1953, so that it can be said that during the year there was no undue prevalence of notifiable infectious disease.

The Chiropody Service for Old People, commenced in 1954, continued to function smoothly. It is greatly appreciated and obviously meets a need.

Once again I welcome the opportunity of thanking you, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your encouragement and support, and the Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Leslie Oates and the Staff of the Health Department for their continued willing co-operation and assistance. Mrs. Wilby carried out much detailed work involved in the preparation of this Report.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. GORDON DRUMMOND.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Area in acres ... 4,578.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population :—20,440.

Number of inhabited houses end of 1955 :—5,856.

Rateable value, 1954 :—£144,775. 1955 :—£149,547.

Sum represented by a 1d. rate, 1954 :—£581 2s. 11d.
1955 :—£589 3s. 2d.

Registrar General's area comparability factors :—

Births 0.97

Deaths 1.02

LIVE BIRTHS.

	MALE.	FEMALE.	TOTAL.	
Legitimate ...	145	128	273	Rate per 1,000 pop- ulation 13.5. Adjusted 13.1.
Illegitimate	2	2	4	
Total	<u>147</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>277</u>	

STILL BIRTHS.

Legitimate	5	3	8	Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births, 28.1.
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Total	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	

DEATHS.

All causes	139	99	238	Rate per 1,000 pop- ulation, 11.6. Adjusted, 11.9.
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INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths of children under 1 year of age) :

Legitimate	4	1	5	Rate 21.7 (per 1,000 live births).
Illegitimate	1	—	1	
Total ...	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>	

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	35
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area.

4,578 Acres. The City borders on the North, East and South with Durham Rural District and on the West with Brandon and Byshottles Urban District.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population is 20,440 an increase of 860 from 1954.

The magnitude of this increase is explained by the Framwelgate (Extension) Order, 1955, whereby a number of houses in Framwelgate Moor were transferred from Durham Rural District to the City.

Inhabited Houses.

The number of inhabited houses is 5856.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Registrar General's Area Comparability Factors for Births and Deaths are a means of adjusting the rates for Births and Deaths so that the population of the District is directly comparable with the population of England and Wales in so far as distribution by age and sex is concerned. The adjusted figures are those to be compared with the figures for England and Wales and with the similarly adjusted figures for other areas.

Births.

During the year 277 live births were registered, 147 males and 130 females. Of these 4 were illegitimate.

There were 10 fewer births than in 1954.

The birth rate (adjusted) of 13.1 is to be compared with that of 14.3 for last year.

Deaths.

238 deaths were registered, 9 more than in 1954 and the death rate (adjusted) of 11.9 compares with that for 1954 when it was 11.8.

The table of causes of death shows that Diseases of the Heart and Circulation accounted for 95 of the deaths registered, or 40% compared with 35% in 1954. Deaths from Cancer number 35 compared with 36 in 1954.

76% of all deaths occurred in persons over the age of 65.

Infant Mortality : (Deaths of children under 1 year of age).

The rate of 21.7 per 1,000 live births was lower than last year when it was 45.3. The lowest recorded rate in the City was in 1952 when it was 19.4.

The figure for England and Wales for 1955 is 24.9.

6 children died before reaching one year of age, as compared with 13 last year.

The actual numbers for the past 10 years are :—

1946	...	...	15	1951	...	...	14
1947	...	...	17	1952	...	...	6
1948	...	...	8	1953	...	...	8
1949	...	...	11	1954	...	...	13
1950	...	...	13	1955	...	...	6

and these numbers should be read in conjunction with the rates given in the table and should be borne in mind in assessing the change in the rate over the years. As the numbers of infant deaths each year are comparatively small, too great significance should not be attached to a single rate.

Of the six children who died before reaching one year of age five were less than one month old.

Of these five, two died of prematurity and two of conditions associated with congenital abnormalities.

In my report last year it was pointed out that consideration of the infant mortality is not complete without consideration at the same time of the Still Birth Rate. The number of still births and the number of deaths in the first weeks of life taken together represent the mortality occurring at about the time of birth.

			1954	1955
Infant Mortality Rate	...		45.3	21.7 ✓
Still Birth Rate	...	...	17.1	28.1 ✓

Maternal Mortality.

Again there were no maternal deaths during the year.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

All Ages.	0—1	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—
238	6	—	2	—	4	9	37	180

INFANT MORTALITY.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 wk.	1—2 wks.	2—3 wks.	3—4 wks.	Total under 1 mth.	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—9 mths.	9—12 mths.	Total
Prematurity ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital Malformations ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Septicaemia ..	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND INFANT MORTALITY
OVER TEN YEARS.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Birth Rate	21·7	20·0	17·9	15·4	16·8	14·4	17·6	16·9	14·3	13·1
Death Rate	12·2	13·3	9·9	11·0	10·9	11·0	11·3	11·9	11·8	11·8
Infant Mortality	38	49	32	35	22	47	19·4	26·8	45·3	21·6

TABLE COMPARING THE BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE
AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1955
OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC., WITH THAT FOR
DURHAM CITY.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	Death Rate per 1000 Popula- tion.	Infant Mortality (Rate per 1,000 live Births).
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	
England and Wales	15.0	23.2	11.7	24.9
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	14.9	23.2	11.6	25.1
160 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	14.9	23.3	11.6	25.2
Administrative County of Durham	17.2	24.4	11.2	32
Durham City	13.1	28.1	11.9	21.7

CAUSES OF DEATH IN DURHAM BOROUGH, 1955.

Cause of Death.	Total	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	238	139	99
Tuberculosis, respiratory	5	4	1
Tuberculosis, other	1	—	1
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	5	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	7	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	20	13	7
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	28	18	10
Coronary disease, angina	34	16	18
Hypertension with heart disease	9	5	4
Other heart disease	42	18	24
Other circulatory disease	10	4	6
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	14	10	4
Bronchitis	8	2	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	4	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	2	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	2	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	2	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	3	3	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	29	18	11
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
All other accidents	5	4	1
Suicide	1	—	1
Homicide and operations of war	1	1	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

During the year there was no undue prevalence of notifiable infectious disease.

Scarlet Fever : Seven cases notified compare with five last year.

Whooping Cough : There were one hundred cases notified as opposed to only 19 last year. In general, the character of the disease was mild. It is in young children that the disease is most distressing and dangerous. Whooping Cough should never be regarded as a "minor ailment of childhood," young children and debilitated children of any age should so far as possible be shielded from the risk of contracting it. Immunising agents exist which are thought to confer a degree of protection against the disease. They are administered to numbers of children in this District by General Medical Practitioners. The Local Health Authority does not provide for their administration.

Acute Poliomyelitis : There were no cases during the year.

Measles : 223 cases notified contrast with 34 the year before and compare with 231 in 1953. It will be noted that two of the cases were recorded as being admitted to hospital, both came from outside the City.

Diphtheria : For the third successive year there were no cases of diphtheria.

I would reiterate, however, the remarks made previously, namely that it must not be assumed that the disease has been eradicated. The danger of infection is present and complacency will foster that danger. The need for immunisation of children against the disease is as great as ever and it will be regrettable if absence of cases leads parents to neglect the use of this method of control, the facilities for which exist as before.

616 children under five years of age had completed a full course of immunisation by 31st December, 1955. It is estimated that this figure represents only about 50% of the number of children under 5 years and over 8 months old, the latter being the age from which immunisation is usually performed.

Records were received that 181 children under the age of 5 received during the year full courses of primary immunisation, the corresponding figure for 1954 being 142.

Dysentery : Of the nine cases notified only one was a resident of the City, the others being admitted from other Districts to hospital in the City and notified from there. The City case was of Sonne Dysentery in an elderly person and the source of infection was not determined.

Acute Encephalitis : Of the three cases notified one was a City case. The occurrence was in a young man and followed herpes zoster infection.

Paratyphoid Fever : Of the four cases notified, which were all of paratyphoid B. fever, three were resident in the City. Two occurred in one family and there was a clear association with an outbreak of the disease in a nearby village.

The third City case was not confirmed bacteriologically following admission to hospital.

Meningococcal Infection : Two of the four were City cases, one a young child and the other an elderly person.

Tuberculosis : The number of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis was 13 the figure for last year being 12. There were two new cases of non-pulmonary disease. Of the 13 new pulmonary cases 10 were in persons aged between 15 and 35 years.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES REPORTED DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	7	5	—
Whooping Cough	100	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Paralytic			
Non-Paralytic			
Measles	223	2	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	—	14
Dysentery	9	9	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	1	1	—
Infective			
Post-Infectious			
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	4	4	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Meningococcal infection ..	4	4	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
25 — 35	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	1
35 — 45	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45 — 55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 and Upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	10	3	1	1	4	1	—	1

NEW CASES AND DEATHS IN PAST 10 YEARS.

					Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
					New cases.	Deaths.	New Cases.	Deaths.
1945	..	..	..	..	15	8	3	1
1946	..	..	..	..	15	6	5	0
1947	..	..	..	..	24	5	8	0
1948	..	..	..	..	11	5	5	1
1949	..	..	..	..	11	2	1	0
1950	..	..	..	..	25	8	3	0
1951	..	..	..	..	24	5	4	1
1952	..	..	..	..	9	3	3	1
1953	..	..	..	..	20	4	3	1
1954	..	..	..	..	12	3	1	0
Average for 10 years ..					16.6	4.9	3.6	0.5
1955	..	..	..	..	13	5	2	1

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON REGISTER.

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
31st December, 1954	68	46	11	9	79	55
31st December, 1955	75	47	12	9	87	56

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1955.

Live Births Registered.		Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1955.		Records received during the year of full courses of primary immunisations.			Records received during the year of reinforcing injections.
1954	1955	Under 5	5—15	Under 5	5—15	Total.	0—15
287	299	616	1551	181	2	183	93

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to the 31st December, 1955.

Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941
3	129	146	169	169	202	178	205	135	106	90	180	174	123	158

CHIROPODY SERVICE FOR OLD PEOPLE.

The Chiropody Clinic continued to be conducted at the Vane Tempest Hall, Gilesgate, on behalf of the Durham Old Peoples' Welfare Association during this, its second year.

Sessions were held on Mondays and Tuesdays, 16 appointments being made for each day.

Mr. E. L. Chambers, M.Ch.S. continued as Chiropodist.

VOLUNTARY ASSISTANCE.

The British Red Cross Society (Area Commandant, Mrs. Allan), with the aid of other voluntary helpers provided a total of 1,147 hours attendance. During the first year 1,480 hours were given. A change has been made from three to two helpers at each clinic session. Two are found to be adequate.

The Durham Samaritan Society which furnished the equipment at the outset continued to subscribe the cost of dressings.

TREATMENT.

During the year clinics were held on 97 days during which there were 194 clinic sessions of three hours.

At the full number of 16 per day this would have allowed 1,552 treatments. The actual number given however was 1,430 or 92% of the possible. The difference is due to missed appointments.

The average number of treatments given each clinic day was 14.7.

Since the clinic started 348 persons have received treatment, and in that time 2,608 treatments have been given, an average of 7.5 treatments per person.

33 persons were treated for the first time since 1st March, 1955.

The volume of requests for treatment continued to be such that normally appointments could be made only for sessions about 7 or 8 weeks in advance.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Patients were charged 2/- for each treatment. The City Council's resolution is to contribute up to one third of one penny rate to defray expenses. (National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 31).

I am indebted for the following statement to Mr. L. Watkins, City Treasurer, who is also Honorary Treasurer of the Durham Old Peoples' Welfare Association :—

<i>Income.</i>				<i>Expenditure.</i>			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Fees	150	10	0	Mr. E. L. Chambers,			
Durham Samaritan				M.Ch.S.	305	11	0
Society	15	0	0	Dressings	8	7	0
City Council ...	148	8	0				
	£313	18	0		£313	18	0

REMARKS.

It will be noted that the period of this report overlaps by two months the period of the previous report which was in respect of the first full year of operation.

There is no lack of evidence that the provision of the service is greatly appreciated. The waiting period for treatment of seven or eight weeks has been maintained throughout the year. It seems therefore that the demand will continue. This waiting time is not unreasonable.

The continued successful functioning of the Clinic is the result of the efforts of those mentioned in this Report—both as individuals and members of organisations.

The good attendance figures are a credit to the Old People—attendance is sometimes a matter of great difficulty in bad weather.

SUMMARY.

Period	1/1/55—31/12/55.
Number of sessions	194
Number of days on which sessions held ...	97
Number of treatments given	Possible 1,552 Actual 1,430
Number of treatments persession	Possible 8 Actual average 7.4
Cost to patient (per treatment)	2/-
Period	1/3/54—31/12/55
Number of persons treated	348
Average number of treatments per persons ...	7.5

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

1. *Public Health Services of the Local Authority.*
2. *Laboratory Services.*
 - (i) Dryburn Hospital, Department of Pathology.
 - (ii) Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle.
 - (iii) Public Analyst, Victoria Road, Darlington.
3. *General Medical Services.*

Durham County Executive Council, 20, New Elvet,
Durham
4. *Newcastle Regional Hospital Board.*

Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

*Durham Hospital Management Committee, Dryburn Hospital,
Durham.*

 - (a) *General.*
 - (i) Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
 - (ii) County Hospital, Durham.
 - (iii) Crossgate Hospital, Durham (Long Stay).
 - (b) *Maternity.*
 - (i) Dryburn Hospital.
 - (ii) Croxdale Maternity Hospital.
 - (c) *Infectious.*
 - (i) Chester-le-Street Isolation Hospital.
 - (ii) Langley Park Isolation Hospital (Smallpox).
 - (d) *Tuberculosis.*
 - (i) Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
 - (ii) Isolation Hospital, Chester-le-Street.
 - (iii) Chest Clinic, Earl's House Hospital.
 - (iv) Mass Miniature Radiography Unit, Gilesgate Hospital.
 - (e) *Mental.*
 - (i) Winterton Hospital, Sedgfield.
 - (ii) Aycliffe Hospital.
 - (iii) Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital.
 - (iv) Earl's House Hospital.
 - (v) Crossgate Hospital, Durham.

(f) *Pre-Convalescent.*

Brandon Hospital.

(g) *Venereal Diseases Clinic.*

County Hospital, Durham.

5. *Durham County Council, Health Services.*

(a) School Health Services.

(b) Ambulance Services,

County Ambulance Headquarters, Framwellgate Moor,
Durham.

(c) Health Visiting.

(d) Home Nursing.

(e) Domiciliary Midwifery.

(f) Domestic Help.

(g) Vaccination and Immunisation.

(h) Care of Mothers and Young Children.

(i) *Child Welfare Centres.*

Belmont—Parish Hall.

Durham—14, Old Elvet.

Gilesgate—Vane Tempest Hall.

(ii) *Artificial Sunlight Clinic.*

Durham.

(iii) *Birth Control Clinics.*

Durham.

(iv) *Post Natal Clinics.*

Durham.

(i) Prevention of Illness, care and after care, loan of equipment and appliances.

(j) Accommodation under Part III National Assistance Act.
Crossgate Hospital.

DURHAM,

August, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1955.

Private slaughtering (re-commenced in July 1954) has not resulted in the amount of killings anticipated and this is perhaps fortunate where the staff is limited to two inspectors.

Whilst the food premises in the City generally reach an excellent standard and the owners of such premises have always co-operated with the Department in effecting necessary improvements the new Food Regulations which came into force in 1956 will be most helpful in further improving the hygienic handling and treatment of food.

As mentioned elsewhere in my report the temporary housing in slum clearance properties of families without homes of their own has now ceased. Whilst this action was very necessary it has proved difficult to explain to persons desperate for a home of any description that these old houses can no longer be used.

The Public Health Acts continue to be largely used in connection with repairs to properties. Generally only the essential defects are dealt with and even in these cases some owners find great difficulty in meeting the costs of repairs. In spite of the difficulties, however, very little legal action has been necessary.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. R. Gordon Drummond, for their kindly support during the past year and also to acknowledge the assistance and co-operation of Mr. Bittlestone and the Staff of the Health Department and other Officials of the the Council.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

LESLIE OATES,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S GENERAL SUMMARY SUBMITTED TO COUNTY COUNCIL FOR YEAR 1955.

2. CLOSING AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSES.

A. Formal Action.

(i) No. of houses demolished during year as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action	9
(ii) No. of houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action	4
(iii) No. of houses in Clearance Areas and individual unfit houses demolition of which temporarily postponed	63
(iv) No. of houses in use as temporary accommodation. (Housing, Repairs, and Rents Act, 1954. Part 1.) ...	—

B. Informal Action.

(i) No. of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above	18
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3. RECONDITIONING AND REPAIR.

No. of houses made fit during year by procedure under Housing Acts (excluding temporary accommodation) or Public Health Acts :

(a) As a result of informal action	149
(b) By owners as a result of statutory notice ...	5
(c) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	8

4. IMPROVEMENTS GRANTS : HOUSING ACT, 1949.

	No. of separate houses.
(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority ...	10
(b) Applications rejected by Local Authority ...	2
(c) Total No. of applications approved since inception of scheme	28

GENERAL SUMMARY

	No. of inspections	No. of INFORMAL Notices served.	No. of STATUTORY Notices served.	Defects remedied after Notice.
Housing :				
Public Health and Housing Acts	1390	56	5	49
Overcrowding	23	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :				
Insufficient	6	2	—	2
Defective	34	15	2	17
Drainage	330	43	4	47
Water Supply	23	2	—	2
Food Premises	274	15	2	16
Shops Act	64	4	—	4
Dairies	27	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses :				
Public	—	—	—	—
Private	234	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc.	5	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Factories & Workplaces ..	131	19	—	17
Keeping of Animals	46	2	—	2
Insanitary Ashpits & Receptacles	31	18	—	18
Offensive accumulations ..	22	17	—	17
Smoke Nuisances	30	—	—	—
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	1438	44	—	44
Totals	4,108	237	13	235

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)...	629
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,390
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	nil
3.		Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	22
4.		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of 3 above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	146

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of dwelling-houses made fit in consequence of Informal Action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	149
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	13
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	5
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	8

B.—Proceedings under sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... ..	nil
(2)	Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished as a result of informal procedure under Section II	18

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made	4
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INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

During the year 1,639 inspections were made of properties in the District. It was found necessary to serve 207 informal notices for the remedying of various public health nuisances and the majority of such notices received the prompt attention of the owners or occupiers of the properties concerned.

In 13 cases of non-compliance statutory notices were served on the owners.

This action resulted in the owners carrying out the necessary works in 5 cases and the Corporation doing the work in default and recovering costs in 8 cases.

692 visits were made with the object of seeing that notices were complied with.

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE.

During the year under review 82 houses and flats were erected in the City area comprising 62 council flats and 20 privately built houses.

At 31st December, 1955, the number of council houses and flats erected since the war totalled 1,035.

The total number of houses and flats built for and controlled by the Council was, at the date mentioned, 1,675. In addition to these properties the Council have the letting, when vacant, of any of the 365 houses owned by the North Eastern Housing Association, Ltd.

Two families in urgent need of housing accommodation were found temporary homes in slum clearance properties.

No further families will now be re-housed in these old properties and as the present tenants are provided with new homes the properties will remain vacant pending demolition.

It is anticipated that in addition to normal re-housing during 1956, conversion of a property in Framwellgate will provide single persons occupying clearance houses in that particular area with suitable homes.

Within the next two years complete demolition of existing slum clearance property should be possible.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE DISINFECTION AND VERMIN DISINFESTATION.

40 visits were made in connection with infectious diseases. Disinfection was carried out at 15 premises where bedding and articles of clothing, etc., were also treated.

54 premises, of which 34 were council houses, were disinfested.

Treatments for vermin disinfestation were also carried out at a hospital and colleges.

RODENT CONTROL.

Sewer Maintenance Treatments : In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries two maintenance treatments of the City's sewers were carried out during the year. A total of 794 manholes were baited showing pre-bait takes in 63 manholes and poison takes in 63. The results show an improved condition over the previous year.

Surface Infestations : All Council properties likely to become infested received periodical visits and treatments as required. The River Banks also received attention.

All cases of infestations in school canteens and hospitals were promptly attended to.

The Council continue to take full advantage of the Ministry's offer of grant aid, which, for the year under review will be half the irrecoverable expenditure incurred in the performance of functions under Part I of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The following table is a summary of the rodent control work carried out during the year :—

	Dwelling Houses.	Business Premises.	Other Infested Places.	Totals
No. of Premises Visited	279	96	90	465
No. of visits ...	878	297	263	1,438
No. of Pre-baits ...	2,299	2,286	1,390	5,975
No. of Poison-baits	1220	1,286	697	3,203
No. of Post-baits ...	1154	1,208	692	3,054

DRAINAGE.

The following particulars relate to drainage work carried out by the Department during the year :—

New drainage systems laid	...	...	...	...	20
Drainage systems reconstructed	...	...	...	...	12
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	16
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	45
Inspection chambers built	...	...	...	...	7
Ventilation provided to drains	...	...	...	...	1
New gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	8
Other drainage defects remedied	...	...	...	...	12
Smoke tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	15
Water tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	69
Colour tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	19

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Two licences granted by the Council under the provisions of Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936, authorising the use of trailer caravans were in force in the year 1955.

As is usually the case where licences are granted in the City the applicants were students at Durham Colleges and staying for a maximum period of two years.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Premises. (1)	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	27	15	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	68	91	17	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	22	25	—	—
TOTAL	117	131	19	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied.	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspect'r	By H.M. Inspect'r	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	—	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	9	8	—	7	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	7	7	—	—	—
TOTAL	19	17	—	8	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

FOOD PREMISES IN DURHAM CITY.

	<i>Trade.</i>						<i>Number.</i>
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Dairies and Purveyors of Milk					...	...	38
Fish, Game and Poultry				...	...	...	7
Fried Fish...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
General Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Greengrocers and Fruiterers				...	...	...	15
Grocers and Provision Merchants					...	...	32
Hotels, Cafes and Snack Bars	...				...	...	18
Ice Cream dealers		...	...	...	...	...	59

MILK SUPPLY.

The following licences were issued by the Council :—

1. Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations :—

“ Pasteurised ” Milk Dealers Licences	...	...	11
“ Pasteurised ” Milk Dealers Supplementary Licences			8
“ Sterilised ” Milk Dealers Licences	...	...	27
“ Sterilised ” Milk Dealers' Supplementary Licences			3

2. Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations :—

“ Tuberculin Tested ” Milk Dealers Licences	...	2
“ Tuberculin Tested ” Milk Dealers Supplementary Licences	...	4

Registered premises have been inspected during the year in order to ensure that the various provisions of the Regulations were being complied with.

ICE CREAM.

Six applications for registration under the provisions of Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale of pre-packed ice cream were approved by the Council making a total of 59 premises registered for this purpose. Two firms are registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

Samples of ice-cream obtained from producers were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratories, Newcastle, for bacteriological examination.

One sample taken from a firm who invariably reach Provisional Grade 1 was returned as Grade 3. A check was made by the firm concerned on their production machinery and a subsequent sample proved to be Grade 1.

A sample of dried milk used in the manufacture of ice-cream and suspected to be contaminated was also submitted to the Laboratory and found to be practically sterile.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The following list shows the quantities of food that were found upon inspection to be unfit for human consumption. All food condemned was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed at the Council's incinerator :—

Bacon, 5 cwt. 12 lbs.	Fruit juice, 3 tins.
Biscuits, 1 pkt.	Mixed Fruit, 8 pkts.
Black pudding, 10 lbs.	Margarine, 15 lbs.
Brawn, 7 lbs.	Meat, 277 tins ; 389 lbs.
Butter, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	Milk, 46 tins.
Cake, 50 lbs. 7 ozs.	Mincemeat, 32 lbs.
Cereal, 8 cartons.	Pickles, 3 jars.
Cheese, $41\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Polony, 12 lbs.
Chicken, 5.	Prunes, 17 lbs.
Cream, 1 tin.	Sausage, 5 tins ; 50 lbs.
Eggs, $14\frac{1}{2}$ doz.	Soup, 44 tins.
Eggs—Frozen, 3 tins.	Swiss Rolls, 3.
Fat, 10 lbs.	Syrup, 1 tin.
Fish, 15 tins.	Tomato Sauce, 6 tins.
Fruit, 527 tins.	Vegetables, 161 tins.
	Wholemeal Flour, 21 lbs.

MEAT INSPECTION.

All beasts and pigs slaughtered in local slaughter-houses were inspected as were a large proportion of sheep.

233 visits were made in connection with such inspections and the following table gives details of animals slaughtered and meat and offals condemned :—

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE
OR IN PART.

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed (if known)	199	3	6	842	191	—
Number inspected	199	3	6	750	191	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	22	1	—	8	14	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ..	11.05	33.3	—	1.06	7.8	—
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	15	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tub- erculosis ..	7.53	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis.</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

All the above condemned meat and offals were destroyed at the Council's incinerator.

Five slaughterhouses were licensed by the Council but of these only three were actively engaged in slaughtering.

Practically all the carcasses examined were of excellent quality and the standard of slaughtering carried out by the eight persons holding slaughtermen's licences was excellent.

Although certain improvements are desirable in the slaughterhouses the premises were in all cases maintained in a cleanly condition.

FOOD PREMISES—GENERAL.

Inspections :—

During the course of the year 397 visits were made to food premises.

Food Poisoning.

During the year 1955, no notifications of food poisoning occurring in the City Area were received.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

64 visits were paid to shops in order to ascertain if the provisions of the Shops Acts were being complied with. The following sanitary defects were found and subsequently remedied by the shop-keepers concerned :—

Defective drainage	...	...	...	...	12
Offensive accumulation	...	...	...	...	7
To cleanse walls and ceilings	...	...	...	...	1
Defective sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	2
Insufficient sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	—
Insufficient washing facilities	...	...	...	...	—
Other defects	...	...	...	...	4

WATER SAMPLING.

Water Supplies.

Fourteen samples of water were obtained during the year under review.

All the laboratory reports were excellent with the exception of a sample of spring water. This sample had been taken as it was suspected that the water was being used for domestic purposes

during the water shortage in October. The spring was subsequently sealed and residents in the vicinity warned not to attempt to obtain the water.

Swimming Baths.

Thirteen samples of water from the large and small swimming pools were obtained for bacteriological examination.

In two cases the laboratory reported that the samples were not up to standard but that 'the general standard appeared to be quite satisfactory.'

Eight of these samples were taken to comply with a request from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in connection with proposed alterations at the Baths.

The Ministry expressed themselves as satisfied with the analysis

SUMMARY OF WORK OF SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	243
Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	629
Houses re-inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	761
Visits under Factories Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	131
Visits to food shops and food premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	397
Visits under Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Visits in connection with defective or new drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	152
Smoke, water and colour tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	207
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Visits to cases of infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Lots of bedding, clothing, etc. disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Library books disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Visits to verminous houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Verminous premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Interviews with owners, contractors, complainants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	533
Visits to caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inspections of rivers and streams	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Inspections of common yards and passages	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Inspections of public sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Visits in connection with Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,438
Miscellaneous sanitary inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	243

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938-1950.

Year Ending 31st December, 1955.

The work under this Act is performed by an Inspector of the County Council and during the past year, the following samples were submitted by him to the Public Analyst for examination :—

Tea	2	Cooking Fat	2
Margarine	1	Drinking Chocolate ...	1
Beef Sausage	1	Mineral Salts	1
Lard	1	Bemax Wheat	1
Butter	3	Ice Cream	1
Icing Sugar	1	Pasteurised Milk ...	12
Robinsons Patent Groats	1 (Informal).		

All 28 samples were reported genuine.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The following information on water supplies is from a report kindly submitted by Mr. A. C. Wildsmith, Chief Engineer, Durham County Water Board :—

The importance of the public water supply was brought home forcibly by the extreme shortage of water in the last few months of 1955, the extremely dry weather prevailing after July causing the Board to put into operation, in December, 1955, an emergency scheme of water supply from street taps.

It was fortunate that reasonably substantial falls of rain on the gathering grounds made it possible to revert to normal supplies within a very short time after the introduction of this so-called "rationing." It is worthy of note that during the whole of the period of shortage, and during the operation of the Emergency Scheme, the bacteriological quality of the water was fully maintained. The Board's Chemist regularly checked samples from the whole area and no unsatisfactory results were obtained.

During the past year over 1,300 bacteriological and chemical samples have been analysed at the Board's laboratory and over 81% of the bacteriological samples have come within Class 1 of the Ministry of Health Classification for piped supplies. Still further improvements have been made in the filtration and treatment of the moorland supplies and the water is of excellent clarity.

Several service reservoirs have been covered or reconstructed. It has been necessary to continue the secondary chlorination at certain other open service reservoirs as a safeguard against airborne pollution but the chlorine dose has been kept to the minimum.

One special feature of the year's work has been complete investigation of the fluoride content of the Board's water supplies.

REFUSE COLLECTION, PUBLIC BATHS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The following information relating to Refuse Collection, Public Baths, Sewerage and Sewage Works has been supplied by the City Engineer whose Department is responsible for these undertakings.

Refuse Collection.

Regular weekly collection of household refuse is maintained throughout the year. Trade refuse is collected as required.

Public Baths.

A $3\frac{3}{4}$ hour turnover with filtration and chlorination is maintained at the swimming pools.

Sewage Disposal.

Plans for the enlargement of the Barker's Haugh, Sewage Works have been prepared and have been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

